

Claims 16, 17, 23-25, 27, 30, 31, 33, and 34-37 are present in the application. Claims 1-15, 18-22, 26, 28, 29, and 32 have been canceled without prejudice to being presented in a continuation application. Claims 34-37 have been added by the present amendment.

Robert E. Arbogast, James W. Capper, James M. Colvin, Jeffery L. Doddroe, and Christopher T. Kelley have been deleted as named inventors by the present invention pursuant to 37 CFR 1.48(b)(1) because their inventions are no longer being claimed. The processing fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(i), required by 37 CFR 1.48(b)(2), is submitted herewith.

Support for the amendments to claim 24 and 25 and for the subject matter in new claims 34-36 can be found throughout the specification and in particular on page 17 line 1 - page 18 line 2. Support for claim 37 can be found throughout the specification and in particular on page 22 line 22-page 23 line 6.

II.

The examiner's approval on page 2 of the office action of the proposed corrected drawings submitted with the response filed 27 March 2002 is noted. Pursuant to the examiner's request on that page of the office action for submission of the corrected drawings, formal corrected drawings are submitted herewith.

III.

Claims 24, 25, and 30 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 24 and 25 have been amended to avoid the indefiniteness referred to by the examiner. Support for the docking means recited in claim 24 is found throughout the specification and in particular on page 17 line 1-page 18 line 2. Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 24. The

antecedent basis in the specification for the recitation in claim 30 is found throughout the specification and in particular on page 17 lines 16-21 and in Examples 1, 7, and 11 on pages 7, 39, 40, and 41. In particular, Example 11 specifies that the fabric provides the loops for the hook and loop fastening system.

IV.

Claims 16, 17, 23-25, 27, 30, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Kania (U.S. patent No. 5,830,237). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Because Bruce Kania is the sole inventor of the subject matter of these claims and the sole inventor named in the '237 patent, the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 102(e) on his own '237 patent is improper.

V.

Claims 23, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Kania (U.S. patent No. 5,603,122). This rejection is respectfully is traversed. Because Bruce Kania is the sole inventor of the subject matter of these claims and the sole inventor named in the '122 patent, the rejection of these claims under 35 USC 102(e) on his own '122 patent is improper.

VI.

Claims 24, 31, and 33 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Lerman (U.S. patent No. 4,634,626). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lerman does not disclose a tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction for said stump and a closed end opposite said open end as recited in both independent claim 24 and independent claim 31.

In addition, Lerman does not disclose the covering having docking means for attachment of an external device to the covering as recited in claim 24.

Moreover, there is no teaching in Lerman of a covering being coated on the inside thereof with polymeric material as recited in claims 24 and 31. The structure disclosed by Lerman merely comprises separate layers stitched together.

Furthermore, Lerman does not teach a covering comprising one or more high wear resistant areas with said cover being coated on the inside thereof in at least one of the one or more of the high wear resistant areas with polymeric material as recited in claim 31.

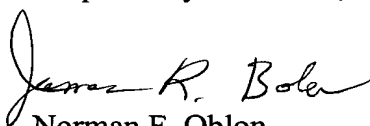
Claim 33 depends from claim 31, and it therefore patentably distinguishes over Lerman for the reasons stated above with respect to claim 31. Moreover, claim 33 includes an additional recitation that further distinguishes over Lerman.

For at least the above reasons, none of claims 24, 31 nor 33 is anticipated by Lerman.

VII.

For the reasons stated above, applicant submits that claims 16, 17, 23-25, 27, 30, 31, and 33-37 are patentable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 24,618
James R. Boler
Registration No. 37,058
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER, & NEUSTADT, P.C.
1755 Jefferson Davis Highway, 4th Floor
Arlington, Virginia 22202
(703) 413-3000
Fax No. (703) 413-2220

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-15, 18-22, 26, 28, 29, and 32 without prejudice.

Claims 16, 17, 23-25, 27, 30, 31, and 33 are reproduced below:

16. (Amended) A tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising elastic fabric, said covering including a front portion, a back portion, and a bottom portion, one or both of said front portion and said bottom portion comprising a higher wear resistant elastic fabric and said remaining portion(s) comprising a lower wear resistant highly elastic fabric, said covering being coated on the inside thereof with a foamed or non-foamed polymeric material.

17. (Not amended) A tube sock-shaped covering according to claim 16, wherein said front portion extends from said closed end to said open end and comprises 10% to 90% of said covering.

23. (Not amended) A tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fiber-on-end fabric, said covering being coated on the inside thereof with a polymeric material.

24. (Amended) A tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering having a docking means for attachment of an external device to the covering [suspension of the covering to the wearer], and said covering being coated on the inside thereof with polymeric material.

25. (Amended) [A] The tube sock-shaped covering of claim 24 wherein said external device is a pad [for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering having a docking means for attaching pads, and said covering being coated on the inside thereof with polymeric material].

27. (Not amended) A tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering being coated on the inside thereof with polymeric material having one or more bosses or annular rings for joining to a prosthetic socket.

30. (Not amended) A tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising fabric that can adhere to a hook portion of a hook and loop fastening system, said covering being coated on the inside thereof with a polymeric material.

31. (Not amended) A tube sock-shaped covering for enclosing an amputation stump, said covering having an open end for introduction of said stump and a closed end opposite said open end, said covering comprising one or more high wear resistant areas, said covering being coated on the inside thereof in at least one of the one or more high wear resistant areas with a polymeric material.

33. (Not amended) The tube sock-shaped covering of claim 31 wherein said covering is coated on the inside thereof in its entirety with said polymeric material.

Please add the following new claims:

34. (New) The tube-sock shaped covering of claim 24 wherein said external device is a prosthetic device.

35. (New) The tube-sock shaped covering of claim 24 wherein the docking means is 1 or more of:

a pin, cable, strap, hook and loop type fastener, snap, buckle, or button.

36. (New) The tube-sock shaped covering of claim 24 wherein the docking means is incorporated by attachment of an adapter to the outside of the covering.

37. (New) The tube sock-shape covering of claim 23 wherein said fiber-on-end fabric comprises stretchable non-wovens.